

Celebrating love

By JOE SCLAFANI

We all associate this month with love, but I wonder if we understand what type of love we are celebrating.

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:27 (NLT)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16 (KJV)

“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13 (NLT)

God loves us with a love that gives, gives of self. It does not ebb and flow, it is constant, it does not have a start or an end, it is eternal. (All the above contributed by my wife Carol.)

The Love of God is unconditional. So if we are created in His image do we love like Him. Let me answer for myself so that you understand that I am “preaching” to myself also. I do not love unconditionally. It is my opinion that as human beings we are not able to love like the creator. At the same time, the Bible calls us to love like Christ. Ephesians

5:1–2 (NLT): “Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.” (The rest of chapter 5 gives examples of what a life of following Christ looks like.)

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 15. Yesterday, I received from my wife one of the best Valentine’s Day gifts a spouse could give. She after great reflection sat with me and made amends for some defects in her character that affected our marriage and myself. As I pondered this, I realized that my wife gave a great gift. I felt heard about some things and that is huge in a marriage. This is a great way to be open and venerable. It showed me how important our marriage is to her. When she opened up to me it showed what sacrificial giving looks like. Trust me I am not one to give marriage advice, far from it, but the word of God gives much advice. Start in Ephesians 5 and maybe read it together. I did give her some chocolates. (Her favorite food group.)

It seems to me that in order to follow Christ is to start with looking at our own

character, take the log out of our own eye. (From Mathew 7:5.) The process of what we call sanctification, or life change is ongoing but if we are moving forward with Christ and other believers we will never walk alone.

Hebrews 10:24–25 (ESV): “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Proverbs 27:17 (ESV): “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”

The Bible is full of passages that tell us not to try to live life alone. The Bible is clear that we need other Christians in our life to help us, and for us to help navigate life. My wife has some women in her life that she meets and talks with regularly and I have some men that I meet and talk with regularly.

I think for growth with the Lord and in our love for others, the road is not a difficult one. Time in the word, time in prayer, time with other Christians, all this helps us grow and learn to love as He loved.

Joe Sclafani is the executive director of New Beginnings Ministries of Wabash.

PULSE

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Saturday, Feb. 19 at Wabash High School. Free registration is open to any Wabash County student. Registration runs until the start time. There will be rules meeting at 8:45 a.m. The round starts and bracket will be final by 9 a.m. at challonge.com. The rounds will be best of three. The winner’s finals, losers’ finals and grand finals will be the best of five. There will be a “for fun” “Mario Kart” tournament starting at 10 a.m. for those who are eliminated. There will be a \$100 prize pool, including Amazon gift cards. It will be a double-elimination tournament, with a \$50 prize for first place, and \$25 prizes for second and third places. The first 50 players to register will receive a free personal pan pizza coupon at the event, with additional large pizza prizes for the winners. It is strongly recommended that you bring your controller. You may bring your Switch for free play. To register for the upcoming tournament, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3z5hn5a3>. For more information, email burnsj@apaches.k12.in.us.

Miami County Junior Achievement announces new fundraising event

Junior Achievement serving Miami County has announced their first-ever eucbre championship on Feb. 19 at the Peru Moose Lodge 110 N. Broadway, Peru. The organization is looking for event sponsors, table sponsors and teams to enter into the game. Event sponsors are \$300 and include four teams of two players each.

Table sponsors are \$100, teams of two are \$50 and a single registration is \$25. Junior Achievement serving Miami County provides classes in Peru Community Schools, North Miami Schools and Maconaquah Schools reaching approximately 725 students. To register, visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/mcgo/> or send an order form and check to Junior Achievement serving Miami County, P.O. Box 1344, Peru, IN 46970. For more information, email Courtney.Ozminkowski@FFBT.com or call Miller at 574-551-4698 or email Beth.Miller@ja.org.

Manchester Values, Ideas and the Arts series continues






Presentations are at 11 a.m. Mondays in Cordier Auditorium on the North Manchester campus unless otherwise noted. All except the “Spaces” concert are free and open to the public. Masks and social distancing are required. Other presentations will also be live-streamed on the Manchester Facebook page. Check the schedule at www.manchester.edu/academics/VIA for updates. Feb. 21 – “I Never Give Up”: Reflections on Volunteering at a Juvenile Prison” by faculty member Stacy Erickson-Petski. Feb. 28 – “Meant for So Much More” is the topic of President Dave McFadden’s Spring Convocation. March 7 – “Race and Racism, Historical and Current Experiences.” March 14 – “PeaceTech: Engineering to Change the World” by Zia Haque. April 4 – “Manchester and the United Nations: The Legacy of Andrew Cordier” by Manchester seniors Christopher Carroll and Omar

Gadzhiev. April 11 – In “CommuniKate: Artalive,” Kate Billingsley offers a comic performance. April 18 – Alicia Smith presents “Environmental Justice & Community Democracy – BIPOC & Beyond.” April 25 – Mary Miller, CEO and owner of JANCOA Janitorial Services, will speak in “Dream Big.” May 2 – “Trailblazers: Honoring Manchester’s First Black Students” is the keynote address on the day Manchester is naming the Academic Center in honor of siblings Martha and Joseph Cunningham. May 9 – Manchester seniors will talk about their senior honors theses. May 15 at 3 p.m. in Cordier – Violist Derek Reeves performs the world premiere of “Spaces,” a concerto composed for him by Professor Debra Lynn, director of choral organizations and vocal studies at Manchester.

Annual Paradise Spring Historical Park event to feature ‘living history’





Paradise Spring Historical Park Board will hold its annual Paradise Spring Inc. Annual Meeting and Soup Supper Carry-In at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23 at the Wabash County Museum’s multi-purpose room, 36 E. Market St. Attendees should enter the east door by the east parking lot. The meal is free. The event is open to the public. However, space is limited. Donations will be accepted to help maintain the cabins at Paradise Spring. Following the meal, a historical program will be provided by retired teacher Jim Needler. For more information, call 260-571-2879.

5-Day Weather Summary

 Saturday Sunny 27 / 18	 Sunday Sunny 50 / 36	 Monday Mostly Cloudy 57 / 49	 Tuesday Rain Likely 61 / 30	 Wednesday Mostly Cloudy 38 / 24
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Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 6:24 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 7:28 a.m.

 Last 2/23	 New 3/2	 First 3/10	 Full 3/18
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Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see sunny skies, high of 27°, humidity of 54%. West northwest wind 6 to 18 mph. Expect clear skies tonight, overnight low of 18°. South wind 3 to 11 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 9°. Sunday, skies will be sunny, high of 50°, humidity of 51%. South wind 11 to 17 mph.



Provided photo

The “Treblemakers” women’s choir is: First row, from left: Caroline Catt, Paige Arrowood, Ellen McKenzie, Hiley Ward, Mya Haney and Madi Gillespie. Second row, from left: Olivia Mollett, Aleigha Woodward, Ameerah Ray, Lacie Jones, Jaide Clark and Hannah Perkins.

ISSMA

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When the competition was finally held, 39 WHS students participated in the annual ISSMA Piano and Vocal District Contest held at Saturday, Feb. 12 at Fairfield Jr/Sr High School in Goshen, said WHS choir teacher Mark Nevil. All performers are members of the WHS choirs, which are directed by Nevil.

“All the gold medalists in the Group I category of solos and ensembles have qualified for state competition,” said Nevil.

Nevil said these gold medalists will represent Wabash on Saturday, Feb. 19 in Indianapolis at Perry Meridian High School.

“Only gold winners in the most difficult level of judging, in Group I, are accepted for the state auditions,” said Nevil.

Nevil said 15 of the 18 entries on Saturday, Feb. 12 earned “superior,” or gold-medal ratings, while the other three earned “excellent,” or silver-medal scores.

Vocal soloists who earned a gold medal in the state-eligible category Group I included Brenden Rowan, a senior; Marcus Haynes, a senior; Quinn Haynes, a senior; Jordan Jones, a senior; and Mollie Friend, a sophomore.

In Group II, sophomore soloists Logan Walters and Paloma Shull brought home golds.

Eli Edmond, a freshman; Kasen Oswalt, a freshman; and Xander Rose, a sophomore, delivered gold-medal performances as Group III soloists.

Freshman vocalist Zaarik DeVore earned silver in Group III.

“The Symphonic Voices,” entered as a Group I Women’s Small Ensemble, performed “Poor Man Lazarus” by Jester Hairston, and won a silver medal.

These members were Morgan Butcher, Kiara Carmichael, Mollie Friend, Jordan Jones, Breanna Keefer, Karigan Long, Maegan Poe, Eva Sears and Paloma Shull. The Group I Men’s Small Ensemble, the “Airmen,” claimed five more gold medals for their perfect score performance of “Lord, Listen to Your Children Prayin’” by Ken Medema. “The Airmen” are Brendan Rowan, Xavier Hughes, Ethan Haynes, Marcus Haynes and Quinn Haynes.

“The Debonairs” men’s group scored 10 silver medals in Group III performing “Mighty Men of Song” by composer Joseph Martin. These men were Zaarik DeVore, Eli Edmond, Marcus Haynes, Gavin Nique, Kasen Oswalt, Gavin Palmer, Xan-

der Rose, Jared Stevens, Logan Walters and Alex Zinn.

In the Small Ensembles Group I division, two entries received gold ratings. A men’s barbershop quartet including Marcus Haynes, Quinn Haynes, Ethan Haynes and Brenden Rowen performed “Down By the Riverside.” The women’s sextet led by senior Jordan Jones performed “He’s Gone Away” by composer Ron Nelson. Other members were Karigan Long, Eva Sears, Mollie Friend, Paloma Shull, and Breanna Keefer.

A Large Ensemble, Girls’ Group III division, featured the voices of the “Treblemakers” – the women’s choir. They earned a gold rating for their performance of Jim Papoulis’ “When I Close My Eyes.” This ensemble included Paige Arrowood, Caroline Catt, Jaide Clark, Madison Gillespie, Mya Haney, Lacy Jones, Ellen McKenzie, Olivia Mollett, Hannah Perkins, Ameerah Ray, Hiley Ward and Aleigha Woodward.

A small ensemble men’s Group III led by senior Gavin Nique brought home six silver medallions for their rendition of “Jonah.” These men were Gavin Palmer, Marcus Haynes, Logan Walters and Eli Edmond.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

DONATIONS

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chance and make a difference in people’s lives.

Harmon said Funds2Orgs helps impoverished people start, maintain, and grow businesses in countries such as Haiti, Honduras and other nations in Central America and Africa.

“Proceeds from the shoe sales are used to feed, clothe

and house their families. One budding entrepreneur in Haiti even earned enough to send her son to law school,” said Harmon. “We are excited about our shoe drive. We know that most people have extra shoes in their closets they would like to donate to us and help those less fortunate become self-sufficient. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

Those who are interested in donating shoes may send

them through the mail to 3789 W. 100 South, Wabash, IN 46992, or call 765-244-8360.

Harmon said they will also have pick-up dates available from 9 a.m. to noon Friday, April 1 and Saturday, May 7 at the Miami County Fairgrounds, 1029 W. 200 North, Peru.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

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Obituaries

Frank J. Merritt

April 5, 1931 – Feb. 12, 2022

Frank J. Merritt, beloved father and husband died Saturday Feb. 12, 2022. He was 90 years old.

Frank was born as John Franklin Merritt on April 5, 1931 in Wabash, IN to parents Bruce J. Merritt of Keeler, MI and Helen Fudge Merritt of Muncie, IN. At a very young age he chose Frank as his name instead of John. He attended Wabash High School where he played basketball, ran track and was in the choir. He also held a Master Mason Degree from the Indiana Freemasons in Wabash, IN. He attended Purdue University in 1949 where he graduated with a BSCE degree in Civil Engineering. He was a brother in the Acacia Fraternity and he sang in the Purdue Varsity Glee Club where he acquired his legendary deep bass and baritone voice and sang Ol’ Man River from the musical Show Boat, a rare bass solo in musicals. He was also a member of the ROTC. He honorably served on active duty in the Army of the United States as 1st Lieutenant, Corps of Engineers from March 2, 1954 to Feb. 18, 1956, stationed in Phalsbourg, France (a NATO airbase). Frank started his career working for Ingersoll Rand in 1956 as a Technical Sales Manager in San Francisco, CA. There he met his future wife, Sharon Louise Gibson. They had a very short courtship and were married Oct 17, 1964. They had two children, Michelle and Melissa. He was then transferred to St. Louis, MO where he became a Sales Manager and raised his family. The rest of his career was spent in Chicago, IL where he became a Regional Sales Manager. Frank retired from Ingersoll Rand in 1996. After realizing that he did not like the cold winters of Chicago, he moved to Pelican Bay, Naples, FL where he enjoyed his retirement and met a wonderful companion Anne Woolard who later became his fiancé.

Frank loved the St. Louis Cardinals. Growing up in Wabash, IN, Frank chose the St. Louis Cardinals as his baseball team. He would even listen to the games on KMOX on his car radio in his garage when he moved to Mill Valley, San Francisco. Upon moving to St. Louis, he had front row, third base season tickets and belted out the Star Spangled Banner in the crowd for all to hear. Frank was a legend at many of the piano bars in San Francisco and silenced the crowd when he sang. He was a member of Castle Oak Country Club in Chesterfield, MO where he was introduced to his beloved game of tennis and made many lifelong friends. He was an avid runner and ran many 5ks in St. Louis, always finishing with many beers. He also enjoyed golf,



walking and all outdoor activities. After retiring to Pelican Bay in Naples, FL, Frank became an avid tennis player and could be seen at the South and North Courts almost every day of the week playing singles and doubles. He also lived for his weekly Bridge game with the guys. He made many cherished, lifelong friends. He cherished his home in Pelican Bay with Anne Woolard, walking along the berm, riding the tram, working on his tan and the sunsets at the North Beach. He became full of knowledge about the native plants of Florida as Landscape Director at Valencia in Pelican Bay and also grew to love and know the birds of Pelican Bay, especially along the berm. Frank was full of life and enjoyed anything that had to do with exercise. Frank was a man full of sentimentality and dedicated to his family and friends. In most celebrations, Frank was always the person who was singing songs and telling epic stories about his life when he was stationed in France and living in San Francisco.

Frank’s wife Sharon passed away in July 2004. He is survived by two daughters, Michelle Merritt Jolas and Melissa Alabach (Jim Alabach). In addition to his daughters, Frank is mourned by three wonderful grandchildren, Logan Alabach, Tyler Alabach and Ruby Merritt Jolas. Frank is also survived by his sister, Joan Merritt Holmes of Naples, FL, her late husband Tom Holmes and their four children Nanne Holmes, Susie Holmes Eelman, John Holmes and Bruce Merritt Holmes. He is also survived by his fiancé Anne Woolard, and her two children John Woolard (Heather McAuliffe Woolard) and Anne (Pucci) Haywood, and her two wonderful grandchildren Tucker and Finley.

A funeral service will be held this Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. at Naples United Church of Christ, Gates Chapel, 5200 Crayton Rd, Naples, FL 34103. A private celebration of his life will be held after the service, details will be provided at the service. He will be dearly missed by all.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to <https://www.woundedwarriorsofcolliercounty.com/campaigns/donate/>

Tamara S. Biehl

Tamara S. Biehl, 75, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022 in Jupiter, FL. Born in Wabash, Indiana, to J Kenneth Alger and Norma Alger (Collins). Tamara was a graduate of Wabash High School in Wabash and married Bruce L Biehl in 1966 before moving to Fort Wayne, Indiana to start a family. Tamara lived her life helping others as a Registered Nurse and was a very involved within her church. She later retired to Florida where she volunteered at the Jupiter lighthouse and Loggerhead Turtle Marinelife Center. Tamara remained active within her church and had developed a passion for watching rocket launches prior to her passing. She loved and dedicated her life to her family as a Daughter, Sister, Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Great-Grand-

mother. Tammy is survived by her son Brad Biehl and his wife Rianne, her daughter Kristina Biehl, grandchildren, Jordan, Alexander (Paula), Molly (Jorian), Gabrielle (Drew), Oliver, and Eva. Her great-grandchildren, Vincent, Kenneth, and Nicholas, her brothers Stan Alger, David Alger (Clista), and sister Julie Alger.

A celebration of life will be held at Tequesta’s First Baptist Church on Feb. 22, 2022 at 11:00am. 423 Tequesta Dr, Jupiter FL 33469. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Loggerhead Turtle Marinelife Center (info@marinelife.org) and Tequesta’s First Baptist Church (561-746-4447).

Please sign the guestbook at edgleycremationservices.com.

Donald J. Weaver

Donald J. Weaver, formerly of Fort Meyers Beach, Florida, currently of Wabash, Indiana passed away on February 15, 2022.

Private graveside services

will be at Grant Memorial Park Cemetery in Marion, Indiana..

Online condolences may be directed to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com

Gay Lynn Marie Sorg

March 26, 1967 – Feb. 15, 2022

Gay Lynn Marie Sorg, 54, North Manchester, passed away on Feb. 15, 2022 at Peabody Healthcare in North Manchester, Indiana. The daughter of Wilbur J. and Pauline V. (Hulvey) Sorg, Gay was born March 26, 1967 in Columbia City, Indiana.

Gay Sorg did not know a stranger and considered everyone she knew a friend. Gay loved spending time with her many favorite nieces and nephews. Gay’s face would light up each time she saw a baby. Before her mother’s passing in 2015, Gay could always be found by her mother’s side.

Gay enjoyed being a hostess at Hardees in North Manchester for over ten years. She was a huge Indianapolis Colts and WWE wrestling fan. Gay enjoyed journaling every day and was a faithful member of Saint Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church. She would also attend Congregational Christian Church in North Manchester.

The loving memory of Gay Lynn Marie Sorg will be forever cherished by her brothers, Wayne (Donna) Sorg, Fort Wayne, Karl (Dorothy) Sorg, Wabash, Peter Sorg, North Manchester, Kevin Sorg, North Manchester, Luke (Deb) Sorg, Huntington, Mark (Lorie) Sorg, North Manchester, Doug Sorg, North Manchester, and Keith (Rachelle) Sorg, North Manchester; sisters, Elaine Snyder, North Manchester, Bonnie (David) Reas, Fort Wayne, Marie (Tom) Hardy, North Manchester, Susan (Don) Lance, Warsaw, Pat (Chuck) Runyan, North Webster, Julie (Keith) Mobley, North Manchester, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Wilbur J. and



Pauline V. (Hulvey) Sorg; brother, Stanley Sorg; sister-in-law, Joyce Sorg; nephew, Phillip Hardy; niece, Karla Easterday and great-nephew, Klayton Reas.

Family and friends may call, Friday, Feb. 18, 2022 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at McKee Mortuary, 1401 State Road 114 West, North Manchester, Indiana with the reciting of the rosary at 7:00 p.m. Funeral mass will begin Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at Saint Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, 1203 State Road 114 East, North Manchester, Indiana, with viewing beginning at 9:30 a.m. and Father Dennis DiBenedetto officiating. Burial is at Saint Aloysius Cemetery, 14623 Bluffton Road, Yoder, Indiana.

For those who wish to honor the memory of Gay Sorg, memorials may be made to Daniels Place, 113 East Main Street, North Manchester, Indiana 46962 and/or Rising Kites, 4294 Oak Street, Bridgman, Michigan, 49106.

The family of Gay Sorg has entrusted McKee Mortuary with care and final arrangements.

Condolences may be emailed to mckeeemortuary.com

Sharon Lynn Stephan

Aug. 30, 1967 – Feb. 14, 2022

Sharon Lynn Stephan, age 54 of Warsaw, IN passed away on Monday, Feb. 14, 2022 at 5:24 p.m. in Parkview North Hospital of Ft. Wayne after courageously fighting cancer for 17 years.

Sharon was born to Clarence and Janice (Horrell) Bolin on Aug. 30, 1967 in Wilmington, OH. She resided in the Tippecanoe area since 1991. She graduated from Huntington North High School in Huntington, IN. She married Michael Stephan on June 4, 1988 and he preceded her in death on May 6, 2020. They have two children, Zoe and Wyatt. She worked as the Coordinator of Potawatomi Wildlife Park and she, along with her husband, were very passionate about their work at the park. She also prepared taxes for H&R Block. She and her husband enjoyed volunteering with the Boy Scouts, working with 4-H clubs, and participated in the Warsaw Astronomical Society. She also enjoyed singing and playing the piano, but most of all, Zoe and Wyatt were her passion.

Sharon is survived by her daughter, Zoe Stephan of Warsaw, IN; her son, Wyatt Stephan of Noblesville, IN; her sister, Kristene (Todd) Harris of Warsaw, IN; and her mother, Janice Bolin of Warsaw, IN.

Sharon is preceded in death by her father, Clarence; and her husband, Michael.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022 from



11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Pleasant View Bible Church (2782 W. 200 N., Warsaw, IN 46580).

Funeral service will follow at 1:00 p.m. with Pastor Ryan Petgen officiating.

Graveside services will be held in St. Paul’s County Line Cemetery (6801 E. 400 N., Andrews, IN 46702) on Sunday, February 20, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Michael and Sharon Stephan Memorial Fund at Potawatomi Wildlife Park (16998 State Rd. 331, Tippecanoe, IN 46570).

The family extends a heartfelt thank you to all our friends and community for your support during this difficult time.

Deaton-Clemens Funeral Home is honored to be entrusted in assisting the family with Sharon’s funeral services.

Condolences or memories may be left at: www.deatonclemensfh.com.

John Michael Petro

John Michael Petro, of LaFontaine, Indiana passed away on Feb. 16, 2022.

Funeral services will be at 10:00 a.m. on Feb. 22, 2022, at McDonald Funeral Homes, LaFontaine Chapel, 104 South Main Street, LaFontaine, Indiana 46940,

with Pastor Brad Wright officiating. Burial will follow at LaFontaine IOOF Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 3-7 p.m. Feb. 21, 2022, at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be directed to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com

Peggy J. Watson

Peggy J. Watson of Wabash, Indiana passed away on Feb. 14, 2022.

Funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m. on Feb. 21, 2022, at McDonald Funeral Homes, LaFontaine Chapel, 104 South Main Street, LaFontaine, Indiana 46940.

Burial will follow at LaFontaine IOOF Cemetery.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service starting at 10 a.m. Feb. 21, 2022, at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be directed to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com

LOAN BILL

From page A1

that discussion of the legislation is a “difficult conversation to have.”

“I think what’s important to understand is that there’s a half of a billion dollar marketplace that we call a sub-prime marketplace,” Zay said. “That’s people with poor or low credit, who in many cases don’t have access to any capital credit anywhere ... Where that marketplace has evolved to is essentially payday lending right now. The big problem is, there’s no way to get from payday lending to finance companies, which then you can build your credit and go into banks and credit unions.”

While Zay believes that it will “bridge the gap” for people with bad credit, many advocacy organizations around the state have been sharply critical of the bill.

In particular, many groups have pointed to the additional fees that could be assessed under the legislation.

“When we look at the fees that can be added on [to this loan product], it ends up being usury in another form by another name,” Indiana Catholic Conference Executive Director Angela Espada said. “On a three-month loan of just \$400, someone could end up paying \$633. If you extend it to four months, it turns into almost \$700. That’s outrageous. These are people who need help and shouldn’t be exploited.”

According to analysis conducted by the non-profit organization Pew Charitable Trusts, Senate Bill 352 “would authorize a \$2,500 loan with \$2,269 in finance charges – a total repayment of \$4,769 in six monthly installments of \$794.83,” a 267 percent annual percentage rate. In a letter to the Indiana General Assembly, the organization compared the bill to other laws passed in states like Ohio, Colorado and Virginia.

“Credit is widely available in those states, but many of the same lenders who operate in those markets charge prices that are two to three times lower than in Indiana today and as much as four to five times lower than those proposed in SB 352,” Pew consumer finance project researcher Alex Horowitz wrote.

“Those laws resulted in affordable credit without a

cycle of debt.”

According to Pew’s research, major differences between the laws on the books in Ohio and those proposed next door in Indiana include that Senate Bill 352 would allow “balloon-payment” loans. Additionally, the maximum loan size in Indiana would be \$2,500 while Ohio and Colorado’s laws limit that amount to \$1,000.

“The bill would enable high-rate and larger installment loans with payments that exceed what research has found most borrowers can afford and that have been shown to replicate the core problems that exist in the payday loan market, where lenders maintain a strong ability to collect payments despite borrowers’ inability to repay,” Horowitz wrote. “Such large payments make it difficult for consumers to cover other expenses, drive high rates of repeated refinancing, and do not result in meaningful consumer savings.”

Hoosiers for Responsible Lending, a coalition of state groups like the ICC, Habitat for Humanity, the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute, called the bill’s passage in the Senate “extremely disappointing.”

“Simply put, the bill expands predatory lending in Indiana without any consideration for financially vulnerable Hoosiers and their families,” HRL member and Senior Policy Analyst for ICAP Andy Nielsen said. “The bill creates a problematic new loan product, preserves payday lending, and lacks any consumer guardrails – fueling a debt trap during a time of economic recovery.”

In response to the criticism of the bill, Zay said that he is currently working on an amendment that would cap the fees as the bill sits in the House. On Feb. 8, Senate Bill 352 was referred to the Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance.

“There are drastic changes prepared to be made on the legislation as it moves forward through the process that really is taking a lot of the advocates that are doing a lot of the screeching into consideration,” Zay said. “I don’t know if I’ll ever move it far enough where they will support the bill, because they’ve always been against this.”

Brett Stover, Huntington Herald-Press editor, may be reached by email at bstover@h-ponline.com.

TURNER

From page A1

Turner. “That said, the band, crew, and I are very thankful to be back out on the road now. Having that time was nice, but we love what we do for a living. So much so that once our shows started back up last summer, we did about a year’s worth of work in six months.”

These days, Turner’s voice has a low, resonating tone. But, when he was growing up in South Carolina, that wasn’t always the case.

“When I was young, I didn’t know there was a proper way to sing. I just thought people sang and that was it. I had no idea there was a right way and a wrong way,” said Turner. “My voice didn’t turn into what it is today until I injured it, and subsequently learned how to take care of it and use it properly. I was in college at Belmont University when that really started to materialize.”

When he was younger, Turner developed a lesion on his right vocal cord.

“It basically came from just singing the wrong way, all the time,” said Turner. “I was on vocal rest for more than a year and had to do rehab. I had to learn how to sing and talk from scratch. It was a difficult process, but learning how to take care of and maintain my voice has helped me keep it healthy during my career.”

Turner said a change in scenery to Nashville turned out to be the best move of his career.

“The best piece of advice I ever got was from Daryle Singletary, which was, “Go

to where the music is,” said Turner. “I met him after his show in Florence, South Carolina years ago when he opened for George Jones. I had this unspoken notion that some big-time producer or record exec was gonna come knock on my door and offer me a record deal. Daryle’s advice helped snap me out of that unrealistic notion. At that point, I knew what I had to do.”

From there, the Grand Ole Opry figured in heavily in Turner’s career. Turner said the longtime institution “is central to country music and its heritage.”

“My daddy has memories of gathering around the radio on Saturday nights and listening to it on WSM. I’d always known about it but didn’t really fully understand it until I moved to Nashville and went to see it for myself. At that point, I was hooked,” said Turner. “For me to debut when I did, so early in my career, was such a blessing and really helped kick-start me in the business.”

Turner said his advice to younger musicians was to “know your sound and who you are before rushing to get a record deal and having to deal with the decision-makers and people controlling the money.”

“You don’t want to be pushed around and manipulated by money, so you have to be able to stand up for yourself and your music,” said Turner. “You also need to find and surround yourself with people who have your best interests at heart.”

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. Craig Snow, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website:
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplainedealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Galatians 1:10

Democracy is under attack, and voters are the targets

A voter-fraud scheme seems to be emerging in Miami, aimed at some of our most vulnerable residents: seniors in public housing. If it's true, it'll be a new and shameful moment in voter disenfranchisement in Florida, where lawmakers' push to restrict access to voting is continuing with unnerving vigor.

Residents of the Haley Sofge Towers in Little Havana have been coming forward, as WPLG Local 10's Glenna Milberg first reported, to say that their voter registrations were switched without their knowledge to Republican after visits from canvassers, some wearing red caps and T-shirts that said "Republican Party of Florida."

The Miami Herald reported Friday that a total of 103 people in that housing complex switched political-party affiliation in a three-month period — every single one of them to the Republican Party. Pretty hard to explain that without something odd going on.

Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, reacting to the initial reports — along with other Democrats — called for an investigation. Miami-Dade County State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle said last week that an investigation is under way, telling Local 10 that her office is taking the allegations "very seriously."

The Republican Party of Florida has denied any involvement.

It's still unclear how many people's registrations were changed and if this extends to other parts of the state, though there are some indications it might. But the individual stories that have emerged so far are troubling in the extreme.

Juan A. Salazar, a 77-year-old Dominican man who uses a wheelchair, told the Miami Herald that he had gone out to get some fresh air in the parking lot at Haley Sofge Towers when three canvassers in the Florida GOP red hats and T-shirts approached him, asking if he wanted to fill out an application

for a new voter-registration card.

He'd been a registered Democrat since the '70s and knew he got his card every year in the mail, but the canvassers insisted he would get it quicker if he filled out the form. When he got his new card a few weeks later, it said that he was a Republican.

He called it a "scam," a way to keep people from voting in primary elections. (Florida has closed primaries.) He said he was concerned about what would happen in the next election.

Salazar is right to worry. How many people who plan to vote in the Aug. 23 primary election will check their registration cards in time to change them if they are wrong?

Plus there's this other bit of context to consider: In a state where Republicans recently took the lead in registrations — an edge of about 67,000 voters out of some 14 million — and control both the governor's office and the Legislature, every registration that turns red will help reinforce the GOP narrative of overwhelming dominance.

Republicans may argue that the party-switching is the result of their growing support in places like Miami-Dade County. Still, the individual voters coming forward are saying something far different.

Our concerns about access to voting aren't occurring in a vacuum. Florida is in federal court right now defending a raft of new provisions lawmakers approved last year that cut down on the use of ballot drop boxes and reduce the amount of time a vote-by-mail request is in effect, among other restrictions. This year, Gov. Ron DeSantis, who pushed for the passage of that bill last year, is asking the Republican Legislature for more, including an election police force, ostensibly to investigate voting-related allegations, though we have state attorneys for that responsibility already.

And then there was this oddity in North Miami. As the Miami

Herald recently reported, an unusually high percentage of voters in last May's local election were assisted in the voting booth — about 10.7 percent of voters. Countywide, just 1.4 percent of voters received assistance from people other than poll workers in the November 2020 general election. The number in Miami, Hialeah and Miami Beach was less than 1 percent.

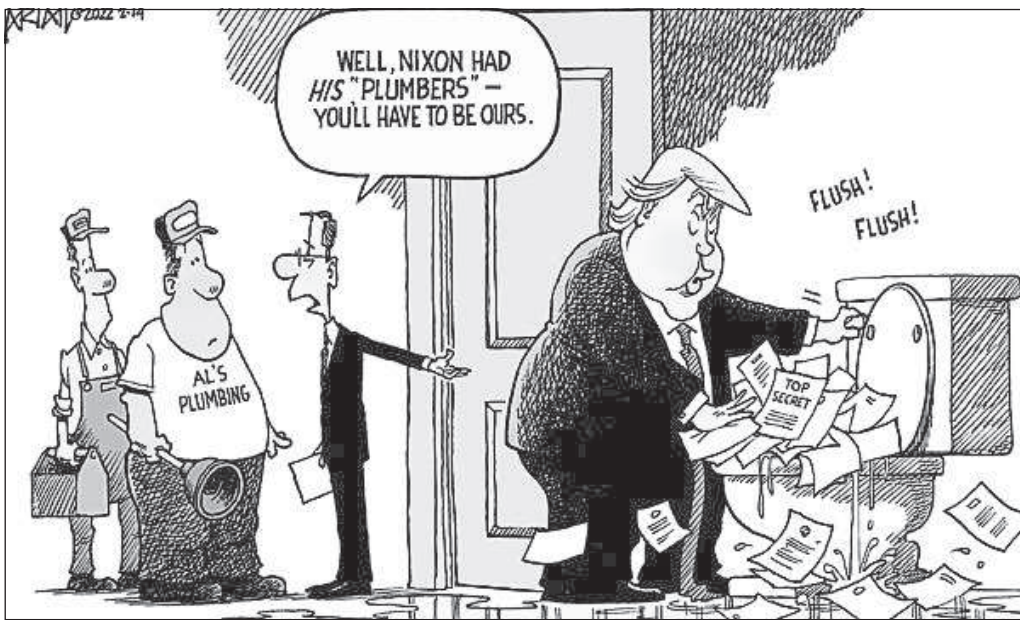
North Miami has said the unusual level of assistance, which is legal if requested, was all perfectly fine. Yet several North Miami voters who received help told the Herald they did not need assistance. The public-corruption unit at the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office is looking into that situation, too, a source told the Herald.

So what do we make of the voting-booth issues raised in North Miami and the allegations of fraudulent party-switching from voters in a Little Havana public-housing complex? In other, more innocent days, we might have brushed off those concerns as isolated, maybe just a few bad actors at work.

But today we have the GOP calling the Jan. 6 armed attack on the U.S. Capitol by Donald Trump's followers "legitimate political discourse," though the party tried to back away from that afterward, saying it didn't mean those who committed actual violence. We have an ex-president who said he'd consider pardons for those convicted of crimes for storming the Capitol after he refused to admit he'd lost the election, a narrative he continues to push with the Big Lie. We have a governor who has successfully worked to reduce access to voting and is asking the Legislature to redraw legislative and congressional district lines that would dilute the Black vote.

Given all of that, how hard is it to believe that, in GOP-led Florida, the right to vote is truly under siege?

This editorial was first published in the Miami Herald.



Wakesurfing bill will keep Indiana's waters safe for future generations

By ORA FREEMAN

Boating and towed water sports are a beloved multi-generational pastime — a way for many to spend time outdoors, engaging in healthy physical activity and having a lot of fun with the whole family. As a lifelong Hoosier, boating industry member, avid boater and wake surfing dad, it is important to me and my family that Indiana has clear laws to protect our recreational activities while also addressing important safety issues on our lakes.

This legislative session, Sen. Sue Glick introduced Senate Bill 187 (SB 187), which just passed the Senate by a vote of 40-6 and now moves on to the House for a vote, where it is sponsored by Rep. David Abbott. The bill establishes and enforces smart and responsible safeguards for wake surfing and wakeboarding in Indiana waters.

This bill proposes needed safeguards to protect our communities and our recreational activities, and I'm happy to see our state senator swiftly pass this measure. SB 187 would

prohibit wake surfing and wakeboarding at night, addressing the valid public concern for accidents on the water after sundown. The bill would also sensibly prohibit wake surfing behind any boat whose propellers extend beyond the transom or swim platform, into the area where a person would surf behind a boat. The proposed bill also aligns restrictions on wake surfing and wakeboarding on small, public freshwater lakes (70 to 300 acres), to be consistent with these lakes' speed limit exemption. Wake surfers and wakeboarders would need to follow the same rules currently in place for water skiers. To ensure each of these proposed regulations are followed, the bills propose penalties and a procedure for property owners to petition the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to adopt other rules concerning wakeboarding and surfing as they deem necessary.

The passage of SB 187 will help to promote the significant economic benefits of the boating industry to the Indiana economy, supporting over 14,000 jobs in approximately

400 Indiana businesses. Over 200,000 boats are registered to Hoosiers, and an estimated \$313 million a year goes into the state's economy when considering the revenue generated from boats, engines, marine accessories and more.

The recreational boating industry, of which I am a proud member, has a long tradition of supporting education and promoting responsibility among boaters. We feel that many of the wake sport-related issues that arise on the water and in lake communities can be managed with a renewed commitment to responsible practices. This bill, accompanied by educational programs, will help to accomplish this.

I applaud Sen. Glick and Rep. Abbott for introducing and supporting SB 187 and I encourage the Indiana legislature to pass this important legislation for Gov. Eric Holcomb to sign into Indiana law.

Ora Freeman is a resident of Fort Wayne and Dewart Lake in Syracuse and works in the boating industry as Director of OEM Sales, North America for JL Audio, a U.S. manufacturer of marine audio products.

We are better together

Collaboration and partnership have been a cornerstone of my work in the nonprofit sector for years. From experience, I know that working together is better. I have witnessed in some of the

other communities in which I have lived and worked, that some nonprofits like to stay in their little corner. They choose to serve the neighbors around them very faithfully but in a small and limited way. The services provided, whatever they may be, are both needed and appreciated. What they don't realize or choose to explore is that with just a little bit of collaboration with others it becomes possible to make a dent toward eradicating the need for the service they provide and therefore serving their neighbors

Rebekah Clawson
Second Harvest



more effectively. It also makes way for addressing other needs.

Since moving to Muncie, I have been so excited to see how much collaboration exists in our area. I have witnessed it in the meetings I have attended and with the people I have met in all of the eight counties that Second Harvest Food Bank serves. Collaboration is a way to maximize impact. I have met a lot of creative and compassionate leaders and many who are pretty good problem solvers. Problem solvers can do powerful things. Collaboration leads to vision and sharing a joint community vision is powerful. I applaud all of our surrounding county organizations, agencies and leaders who are living out partnership and collaboration.

Our staff at Second Harvest Food Bank is working to become better at teamwork, trusting each other and rallying around a common cause are the first two steps to becoming a team. You would assume that we all know and have embraced that our common cause is working toward eradicating food and resource insecurity. What we are discovering is that we have to get out of our way and focus our efforts a little more outward so that the logistics of doing that work doesn't become our common cause. Don't get me wrong, it is a balancing act. Being more efficient in our processes does feed the bottom line and ultimately helps us work toward our goal. What helps us work harder and better together, however, is constantly keeping before us the reason we are doing our work in the first place.

Second Harvest Food Bank provides help for today that allows for our neighbors in need to access the food and non-food resources that are necessary for everyday living and hope for tomorrow in the form of guidance, education and opportunities to move forward to a brighter future.

When we are each independently passionate about a common cause, we thrive together. There are several things in life like that. Take peanut butter and jelly, for instance. They are wonderful separately, but together they are divine, especially when they meld their goodness into a delicious sandwich. Feel free to insert whatever pairs you are passionate about that seamlessly join to make an even better product, I am sure you can think of several. It has been proven that when we humans work together we can do incredible things.

I love the quote attributed to Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Second Harvest Food Bank strives to work with our community partners to do whatever is needed to provide food and non-food resources through as many channels as possible to reach those neighbors who need them most. We are convinced that we are ... better together.

Bekah Clawson is the president and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana whose mission is to provide help for today by feeding the hungry and hope for tomorrow by addressing the causes of food insecurity while empowering people toward self-sufficiency. With the help of 164 partners, Second Harvest Food Bank distributes food and non-food resources to an eight-county service area, including: Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Jay, Madison, Randolph and Wabash counties.

LETTERS

Big Tobacco companies don't need any help from lawmakers

Last summer Gov. Holcomb announced a new public health commission to examine ways to improve the health of our state. I thought that was a positive sign that our state policymakers were finally ready to get serious about improving the health of Hoosiers.

So, I was surprised to learn recently that lawmakers are considering a proposal that would cut taxes on tobacco products. For a state that already has the fifth-highest smoking rate in the country, this seems like a terrible idea.

Cheaper tobacco products will make Hoosiers sicker, make kids more susceptible to addiction and raise health care costs for everyone. Cutting taxes on cigars, e-cigarettes and other tobacco products would be an outrageous decision that benefits tobacco companies and harms the rest of us.

Big Tobacco companies don't need any help from lawmakers. I hope Rep. Craig Snow will oppose any tax cut on any tobacco product. Contact him right away and tell him to vote no to SB 382, by emailing h18@iga.in.gov or calling 317-234-9028.

Dan Gray
Wabash County Tobacco Free Coalition

HISTORY

Today is Saturday, Feb. 19, the 50th day of 2022. There are 315 days left in the year.

Highlights in history:

On Feb. 19, 2008, an ailing Fidel Castro resigned the Cuban presidency after nearly a half-century in power; his brother Raul was later named to succeed him.

On this date:

In 1473, astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus was born in Torun, Poland.

In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr, accused of treason, was arrested in the Mississippi Territory, in present-day Alabama. (Burr was acquitted at trial.)

In 1878, Thomas Edison received a U.S. patent for "an improvement in phonograph or speaking machines."

In 1942, during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which paved the way for the relocation and internment of people of Japanese ancestry, including U.S.-born citizens.

Lifestyles



Photo by Lynda Balslev for TasteFood

Warm up with melty, cheesy stuffed pasta

If food is a metaphor for a blanket, then cover up with this. Melty, cheesy stuffed pasta shells, smothered in a bright tomato

Lynda Balslev



sauce – and, of course, more cheese – are exactly what we need right now. This is a dish that will please everyone, no matter their

age, and warm you up when the weather is miserable outside.

It takes a little time to assemble, so consider the process a meditative exercise with comforting results. Feel free to perfect the presentation, arranging the shells in tidy rows or spirals, if you like. But remember that the shells will be blanketed with sauce and cheese, so there is absolutely no need to be meticulous – unless that’s how you roll.

A meal like this is warming and satisfying in the winter. It’s also practical, because it can be assembled in advance, and the portions can be doubled to feed a crowd. I have provided a simple tomato sauce, which is all you need, but a

favorite prepared tomato or marinara sauce can easily stand in.

As for the filling, I will repeat my mantra about choosing ricotta cheese: Always use a high-quality, whole-milk ricotta for best results. You want a creamy, full-flavored cheese, and the skim varieties are thin, watery and often bland or even bitter. In this recipe, I add chopped cooked spinach to the filling. While you can omit the greens altogether, I do champion their addition to the dish; it’s a wonderful way to sneak in a vegetable. Finally, you will note that I do not parboil the shells, which happily contributes to the ease of making this dish. (This is also how I prefer to make lasagna.) I find that covering the dish with foil while it bakes and extending the cooking time results in the shells being sufficiently cooked to al dente.

Cheesy Baked Stuffed Pasta Shells

Active time: 45 minutes
Total time: 1 hour and 45 minutes
Yield: Serves 4

Sauce:
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
1/2 small onion, finely

chopped, about 1/2 cup
1 garlic clove, minced
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
1 (28-ounce) can crushed Italian plum tomatoes
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, or to taste

Filling:

5 ounces fresh baby spinach (optional)
16 ounces fresh whole-milk ricotta, drained
1/2 fresh mozzarella ball, about 4 ounces, finely chopped
1 large egg
1/4 cup packed finely grated pecorino Romano cheese
1 large garlic clove, minced
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
12 ounces jumbo pasta shells
1/2 fresh mozzarella ball, about 4 ounces, shredded
1/4 cup finely packed grated Parmesan or pecorino Romano cheese

Make the sauce: Heat the oil in a medium saucepan. Add the onion and saute until soft without coloring, about 3 minutes. Add the garlic, oregano and red pepper flakes and saute until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add the tomatoes and simmer, partially covered, over

medium-low heat for about 20 minutes. Season with the salt. (If using prepared sauce, you will need 28 ounces, or 3 1/2 cups.)

Heat the oven to 375 degrees.

Make the filling: If using spinach, steam the leaves until wilted. Transfer to a colander and squeeze out all the liquid. Finely chop the spinach. Combine all the filling ingredients, including the spinach if using, in a bowl and mix well.

Spoon 1 cup of the tomato sauce into an 8-by-11-inch baking dish and spread evenly.

Using a teaspoon, carefully stuff the pasta shells with the filling. Arrange the shells side by side, gap-side up, in the dish. If there is any remaining filling, drop dabs of the filling around the shells.

Spoon the remaining sauce around and between the shells. Top with the shredded mozzarella and Parmesan.

Cover the dish with foil and transfer to the oven. Bake for 45 minutes, then remove the foil. Bake for 15 minutes more or until the pasta is al dente and the top is golden in spots. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

Eight scary automated IRS notices that are being suspended – for now

You’ve been trying to communicate with the IRS for months about your 2020 federal return, but your calls go unanswered

Michelle Singletary



and your mailed correspondence clearly sits unopened. Then you receive a scary letter in the mail that says you haven’t filed your tax return, even though you did. Or, you’re warned that you have a tax debt. You don’t believe you owe it, but in an extreme case, the IRS could still move to levy your income, take money from your bank account or seize your property.

Welcome to Tax Season 2022. Because of a backlog of millions of returns, the IRS system has been spitting out automated notices – some prematurely.

Acknowledging it’s overwhelmed, the IRS announced it was suspending some notices on Jan. 27. But at the time it identified only one example – the CP80, which is sent to a taxpayer when the IRS has credited a payment but has no record of the tax return being filed.

Now we know more – nearly two weeks later. In a second statement, the IRS listed eight individual taxpayer notices that it’s stopping. They mostly relate to taxpayers the agency says have outstanding tax debt and unfiled tax returns. These automatic notices will be suspended until the backlog is worked through, the IRS said.

The agency listed eight notices, as well as the corresponding Spanish versions of the letters. The list also included two business notices that are being suspended temporarily. (By the IRS tally, that adds up to 15 notices since the start of 2022). Here they are:

■ CP59 and Spanish version, CP759 – You get this when the IRS doesn’t have a record of a prior year’s return having been filed.

■ CP516 and Spanish version, CP616 – This is the second notice of a delinquent return.

■ CP518 and Spanish version, CP618 – The final return delinquency notice.

■ CP501 – This is a reminder that you have an outstanding balance due.

■ CP503 – This is the second reminder that you have an outstanding balance.

■ CP504 – This is the third notice that also indicates the intent by the IRS to levy your income and bank accounts and seize property if you don’t immediately pay the amount due.

■ 2802C – Taxpayers receive this notice when the IRS has determined that your withholding isn’t enough. Ignore this letter and the IRS will follow up by issuing a “lock-in letter” that instructs your employer to increase your withholding rate.

■ CP80 – This notice is sent when the IRS has credited payments to a taxpayer’s account but hasn’t received a return for that tax period. Many taxpayers complain that the IRS cashed checks that were attached to returns that are probably in the unprocessed pile.

The business notices being stopped are CP259 (CP959 in Spanish) and CP518 (CP618 in Spanish). Both of these notices – first and second – involve returns that the IRS doesn’t have a record of being filed.

“Taxpayers, practitioners and IRS will benefit from reducing unnecessary contact, such as erroneous notices or warnings of levy, and provide much-needed relief during an already

stressful and overwhelming tax season,” the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) said in a statement.

Because the notices are automated, some taxpayers and tax professionals may still receive letters during the next few weeks, the IRS said.

So, what should you do? “Generally, there is no need to call or respond to the notice as the IRS continues to process prior year tax returns as quickly as possible,” the agency said.

For many people, failing to get a notice will end up costing them more money, because they may assume it means a reprieve from paying taxes due. It does not – a point that can’t be emphasized enough.

If you owe the IRS, the suspension of a notice does not equal a suspension of payment, warned National Taxpayer Advocate Erin M. Collins.

“If they believe they owe some or all of the tax, they should determine what they can pay, make that payment, stop the running of the interest and continue to try to work with the IRS to resolve the issue,” Collins said. “We just want to make sure taxpayers are not surprised a year down the road that the interest continued to accrue.”

If you owe the IRS and didn’t file your tax return on time, you could be facing penalties for failure to file and a failure to pay. The IRS points out that interest and some penalty charges continue to be added to the amount you owe until the balance is paid in full, and that interest compounds daily.

“In not sending notices, taxpayers who should actually be receiving them may not be,” said Eric Bronnenkant, head of tax for the online financial adviser Betterment. “If a taxpayer believes they have an unfiled tax return, has a balance due or is aware of another issue, they should still try to get these issues resolved. The absence of a notice does not mean an issue has been resolved.”

Meanwhile, the AICPA has been pressing the IRS to extend holds on taxpayer accounts until a resolution is reached. This will prevent a notice from escalating to collection efforts while there are still a massive number of unprocessed returns that need to be cleared.

“If there is a hold on your account and the IRS hasn’t resolved the dispute, then that hold should be able to stay on until the problem is resolved,” said Melanie Lauridsen, senior manager for tax policy and advocacy with the AICPA.

If you get a notice and you don’t owe, or you have proof you filed your return on time, just hang tight. There isn’t much you can do but wait for the IRS to catch up on the backlog.

“The IRS is first in, first out,” Collins said. “So if you continue sending subsequent correspondence, it’s not going to get anyone’s attention quicker. You’ll go to the bottom of the pile. I know people do not want to hear this, but you’re just going to have to be patient.”

Call Michelle Singletary at 1-800-Ask-Post. Readers can also write to Michelle Singletary c/o The Washington Post, 1301 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007. Her email address is michelle.singletary@washpost.com. Follow her on Twitter (@SingletaryM) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/MichelleSingletary). Comments and questions are welcome, but due to the volume of mail, personal responses may not be possible. Please also note comments or questions may be used in a future column, with the writer’s name, unless a specific request to do otherwise is indicated.

On Nutrition: Calcium and kidney stones

By BARBARA INTERMILL
Monterey Herald (TNS)

RENE FROM RACINE, WISCONSIN, WRITES: “I am hoping you can help me understand calcium supplements and the likelihood of kidney stones. For the first time in my 61 years, I had a kidney stone. I also have been diagnosed with osteopenia (lower than normal bone mass). I would like to take a calcium citrate supplement along with MK7 (a form of vitamin K) but read that citrate may increase stone formation. Can you advise and help clear up my confusion on calcium supplements for someone prone to kidney stones and osteopenia or recommend a reliable publication that I could understand? Thank you in advance.”

Nice to hear from you, Rene.

I enjoyed your nice city back in 2016 while on a book tour. Your question is a good one.

To begin, the two most popular types of calcium supplements are calcium carbonate and calcium citrate. Calcium citrate’s absorption into the body does not rely as much on the release of stomach acid (that occurs after a meal) as does calcium carbonate. That means we can conveniently take calcium citrate supplements with or without meals.

Besides being well absorbed, there is also good evidence that calcium citrate supplements may prevent bone loss in older women. In fact, citrate is a major component of healthy bone.

Regarding calcium citrate and kidney stones, you might check out a 2019 review article by endocrinology pro-

fessor Andrea Palermo of Bio-Medico University, Italy, and her colleagues in Reviews in Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders. These experts cite evidence that calcium citrate supplements have a lower risk for kidney stones than supplements made with calcium carbonate.

And while we still don’t have all the answers, it is interesting that the use of citrate salts is a widely used treatment for kidney stones. We also need to remember other strategies to lower our risk for this painful condition: Drink plenty of fluids, cut back on salt and avoid caveman portions of meat.

Lastly, don’t forget that the safest and most efficient way to get adequate calcium is from our food. While supplements are a good way to get

what our diets don’t contain, they may come with side effects.

You didn’t ask, but here are some other nice-to-knows about calcium supplements:

From your 51st birthday onward, women need 1,200 milligrams of calcium a day from food and supplements combined. Start checking the Nutrition Facts label for calcium content on your favorite foods to see if you need to add a supplement.

If you do take a supplement, your body can absorb no more than 500 milligrams at a time. That means you might need to take more than one dose a day.

Barbara Intermill is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator affiliated with Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. Email her at barbara@quinessentialnutrition.com.



Church Directory

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Sweetwater Assembly of God, 2551 SR 114 E, North Manchester. (260) 982-6179. Sunday worship 9am & 10:45am. Sunday evening outreach groups & youth ministry 5-7pm. Wednesday 6:30pm adult/teen bible study, 6:30pm Kidz Zone (K thru 6th grade). All worship services streaming online and on our Facebook page.

BAPTIST

Southside Free Will Baptist, 360 Columbus Street. Pastor Tim Webb. Sunday School 10am. Worship Service 11am. Sunday Evening 6pm. Wednesday Evening 6pm. Sunday worship services streaming online

Wabash Free Will Baptist Church, 1056 Erie Street. Wednesday evening prayer meeting 6pm. Sunday School 10am, Church 11am; evening service 6pm.

CATHOLIC

St. Bernard Catholic Church, corner of Cass & Sinclair. Father Levi Nkwocha. Masses: Saturday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m.; Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday at 8:15 a.m.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Main Street in Lagro Mass Time: 11 a.m. First Sunday of the month throughout the year except January and February. Let us worship together.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Christian Heritage Church, 2776 River Road. (260) 569-7710. Pastor Tim Prater. Sunday 8:30am. Radio Ministry 95.9 WKUZ. Sunday School 9:30am. Morning Service 10:30am. Sunday evening 6pm. Wednesday evening 6pm. Online services on Sunday at 10:30 am and Wednesday 6:00 pm

LaFontaine Christian Church, 202 Bruner Pike, LaFontaine
Minister Brad Wright. (765) 981-2101. Worship 9am & 10:30am, Nursery & Jr. Church available. Online Services available on our website

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church of Christ, Wabash (corner of N Wabash Street and US 24). Evangelist Josh Fennell (260) 563-8234. Sunday School 9am. Morning Worship 10am. Evening Worship 6:30pm. Wednesday Service 7pm. Wednesday Kid's Jam 7pm.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Wabash Church of the Brethren, 645 Bond Street (off Falls Avenue). Pastor Doug Veal. (260) 563-5291. Wherever you are on life's journey, come join us as we continue the work of Jesus...Peacefully, Simply, Together. Sunday School 9:30am. Worship 10:30am. Children's church and nursery available during worship. Online Service through website or conference call.

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 110 W. Hill St., Wabash; Stephen Eberhard, Minister; phone: 260-563-4179; website: www.wabashchristian.org. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Nursery provided. Find us on YouTube and Facebook.

FRIENDS CHURCH

Wabash Friends Church, 3563 S State Rd 13. (260) 563-8452. Lead Pastor, Brandon Eaton. Join us for in-person worship at 8:30AM or 10:45AM, or via live-stream on Facebook at 10:45AM. Children's programming available infants - 6th grade. Sunday school for all ages at 9:45AM. Youth (7th-12th) Sunday evenings at 6:30PM.

INDEPENDENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 4 miles north of Wabash on St. Rd. 15; phone 260-563-4109; website: bachelorcreek.com; Worship Minister - Michael Eaton, Student Minister - David Diener, Children's Minister - Tyler Leland, Middle School & Small Groups Minister - Nate Plyler, Next Steps & Outreach Minister - Ryan Keim, Women's Director- Taylor McFarland, Early Childhood Director - Janet Legesse. Worship 9:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

LUTHERAN

Living Faith Lutheran Church (NALC), 242 S. Huntington St., Wabash, IN. Worship begins each Sunday morning at 10:10 a.m. with Bible study classes for all ages at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for worship. Worship Services live streamed on our website. www.LivingFaithWabash.org

Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA), 1500 S Wabash Street. Pastor Dr. Kent Young. (260) 563-6626. We worship our Lord each Sunday at 9:30am with Gospel-based message and Holy Communion. There is a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following the service. We are handicap accessible and everyone is welcome at Trinity! tlcwabash@gmail.com.

UNITED METHODIST

North Manchester United Methodist Church, 306 E Second Street, North Manchester. Pastor Steve Bahrt. (260) 982-7537. Worship Service 8:15am & 10:30am. Coffee Fellowship 9am. Sunday School 9:30am.

Richvalley United Methodist Church, 290 N Jefferson. (260) 563-1033. Pastor Jack Suits. Worship service begins at 9:30am. Nursery available. Sunday School begins at 10:45am for all age.



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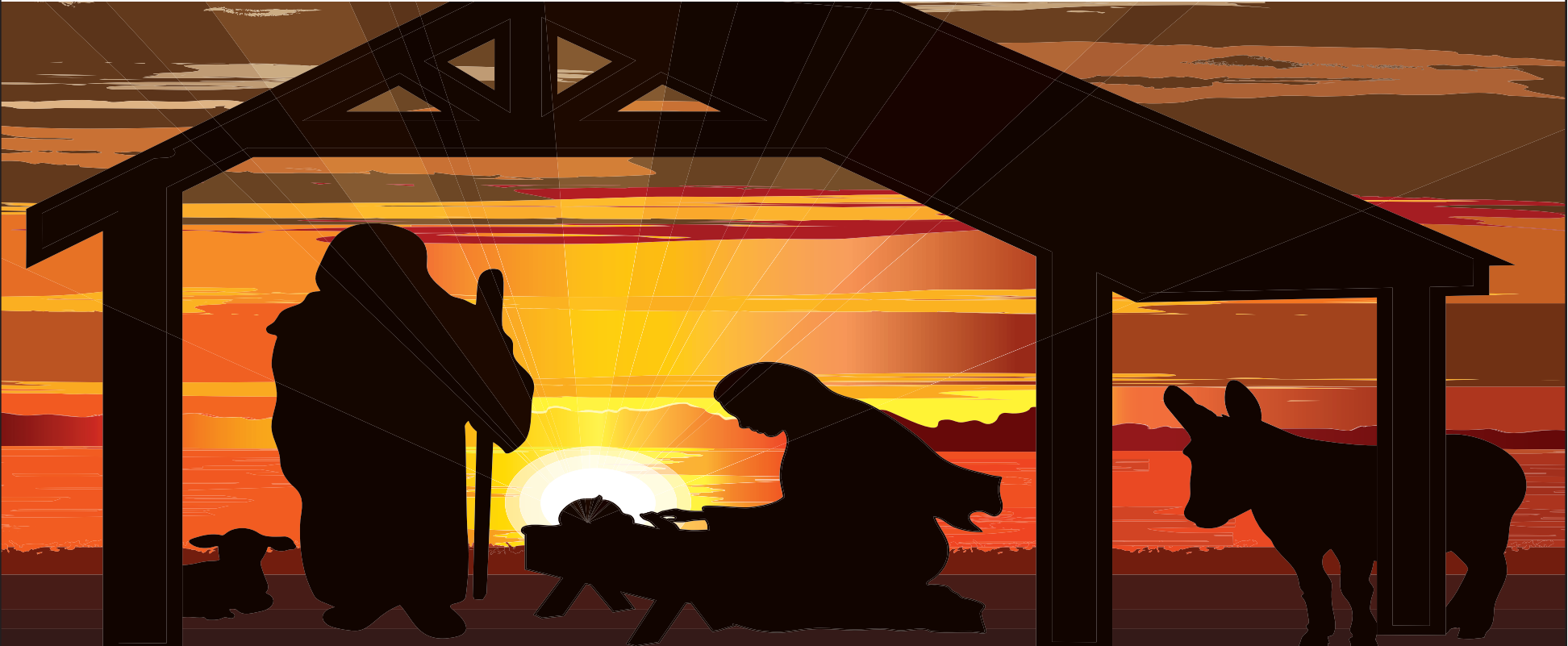
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Daily Bible Reading						
Colossians 1:24-29	Colossians 2:1-19	Colossians 2:20-3:4	Colossians 3:5-17	Colossians 3:18-4:1	Colossians 4:2-18	Leviticus 19:1-18
Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society X Daily Devotional at DailyBible.AmericanBible.org						
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Gu's coming-out party ends with 3rd Olympic medal

By **BERNIE WILSON**
Associated Press

BEIJING — Eileen Gu turned the Beijing Olympics into her own personal playground.

In the city. In the mountains. Spinning, flipping and flying above three different venues.

The American-born Gu came into the Games hoping to win three gold medals in freestyle skiing while representing China, where her mother was born. She didn't, but she did come away with two golds and one silver, making her the first action-sports athlete to win three medals at the same Olympics.

The 18-year-old Gu capped her global coming-out party Friday by winning the gold medal in women's halfpipe. She had such a big lead after two runs that she was able to take a carefree final run down the halfpipe.

"I was very emotional at the top and I chose to do a victory lap," Gu said. "Because I felt like, for the first time, I like really deserved it and I really earned it."

She won the gold medal in the Olympic debut of women's freestyle big air in front of an old steel mill in the city. She took the silver in slopestyle on the Secret Garden course, where elements were carved out of snow to resemble portions of the Great Wall. Finally, she dominated in the halfpipe.

Well known in China before these Games, she's now a household name back in the United States and around the world. Part of that had to do with the criticism she received for competing for China rather than the United States.

But a lot of it was due to her skill, confidence and personality.

If there's a face of joy at the Beijing Games, it's Gu and her ever-present smile. It was a remarkable contrast to the tears of Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva after her shocking litany of mistakes left the heavily favored teenager off the podium in women's figure skating, and the disappointment and self-doubt of U.S. skiing superstar Mikaela Shiffrin after she failed to medal in any of the five individual races she entered.

Gu is also a model and her face is on advertisements all over Beijing. She's been photographed for Vogue, Victoria's Secret, Louis Vuitton, Tiffany and more. Born in San Francisco, she will enroll at Stanford in the fall.

On Friday, she remained undefeated in the halfpipe with exceptional perfor-

mances on her first two runs. She scored 93.25 on her first run and 95.25 on her second run.

"She has basically set a level that's pretty unattainable for a lot of us," said American Carly Margulies, who finished 11th.

Men's skicross

Ryan Regez led a 1-2 finish by Switzerland in the Olympic skicross final at Genting Snow Park, taking the lead early and never giving it up. He raised his arms in triumph after finishing the course filled with jumps, bumps and rolling terrain. Teammate Alex Fiva finished with the silver medal and Russian athlete Sergey Ridzik grabbed the bronze.

Speedskating

Thomas Krol won gold in the 1,000 meters, giving the Netherlands its third straight Olympic speedskating title in the event. The Netherlands earned its fifth gold medal in 12 events in Beijing with one day of competition remaining. Laurent Dubreuil of Canada took silver and Haavard Lorentzen, the 2018 silver medalist, earned bronze.

Biathlon

Johannes Thingnes Boe of Norway dominated throughout and stayed composed during the four shooting stages to win the gold medal in the men's mass start race.

Justine Braisaz-Bouchet of France used strong shooting and great skiing to win the women's mass start race.

Men's hockey

The Russians and Finland will meet in the gold medal game Sunday. The defending champion Russians beat Sweden 2-1 in a shootout, and Finland defeated surprise semifinalist Slovakia 2-0.

Ivan Fedotov made 34 saves in regulation and overtime against Sweden and six more in the eight-round shootout, and Anton Slepyshev scored in regulation. Former NHL forwards Nikita Gusev and Yegor Yakovlev and New Jersey Devils prospect Arseni Gisiyuk scored in the shootout.

Tournament MVP candidate Sakari Manninen scored his fourth goal of the Olympics for Finland, and former Florida Panthers goaltender Harri Sateri made 28 saves for the shut-out of Slovakia. The Finns are looking for their first Olympic gold medal.

Slovakia will play Sweden for the bronze. It is going for its first hockey medal of any kind since the breakup of Czechoslovakia.



Photos by Clay Maxfield / Plain Dealer

Linda Cordes had eight points for the Wabash Apaches.

Slow second half leads to Wabash varsity girls sectionals exit, 51-34

Apaches end their season with a record of 9-14 while winning four of their last six games

By **CLAY MAXFIELD**
Wabash Plain Dealer
Freelance Reporter

Wabash's varsity girls basketball team gave No. 10 in Class 2A Pioneer everything they could handle in the first half of Monday, Feb. 7 sectional semifinal but couldn't overcome the Panthers hot second half as the Apaches fell 51-34.

The Apaches end their season with a record of 9-14 while winning four of their last six games.

Wabash head coach Matt Stone was proud of his team's effort after following the scouting report that had been built up in the last 10 days of preparation.

"I told our girls, I was so proud of them," Stone said. "Everything we talked about for the last week and a half, they did. We talked about packing it in, making them shoot threes. Not worrying about if we give up some threes and taking away that drive and dunk to the block."

"I thought we really executed well on defense, we just couldn't get shots to fall."

Coming into the game, Pioneer ranked 15th in the state in terms of offensive efficiency (60.44 points per game) while defeating teams



Libby Mattern had nine points for Wabash.

with an average win margin of 16 ppg.

A three from Libby Mattern followed by a post up from Jade Stumbo helped the Apaches cut into an early Pioneer lead as Wabash trailed by three going into the first quarter break.

As a team, Wabash mustered just 27 percent shooting from the field while Pioneer shot 42 percent and hit seven three-pointers.

The loss marked the fifth season in a row in which the Apaches have been eliminated from the sectional tournament in their first game.

Despite the loss, Stone said he was pleased with the way his team continued to fight through a season in which the Apaches lost five of their first seven games of the season before bouncing back with wins at Bluffton and

home against Oak Hill.

"It's amazing where we were 10 games ago. We found a way to win close games down the stretch. We found a way to get better and you know it can always go the other way. It didn't and that is a testament to those girls and them wanting to succeed and wanting to get better. ... Just extremely proud of that group," Stone said.

A 7-0 run in the second half spurred an early comeback for Wabash as Rylee Yoakum picked off a Pioneer pass and took it full court for the lay-in while getting fouled in the process.

Yoakum led with 10 points and six rebounds while Libby Mattern and Linda Cordes had nine and eight points each, respectively.

In the third quarter, Wabash

was held to four points and from there, the game slowly got away from the Apaches as 21 turnovers throughout the game took a toll on their offense as well.

For an Apaches team that graduates four seniors, the future is bright.

"We got a lot of good young players," Stone said. "There are 14 kids on our sectional roster and 10 of them are coming back. Our JV won their last five games of the year so we got some good players coming back and we got good kids coming off that JV so, we might not be very big next year but we're gonna be pretty athletic and we're gonna be pretty good."

Clay Maxfield, Wabash Plain Dealer freelance reporter, may be reached by email at sports@wabashplaindealer.com

MLB cancels spring games through March 4 due to ongoing lockout

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball on Friday canceled the first week of spring training games through March 4 in the first public acknowledgement of the disruption caused by the lockout.

The announcement came with the work stoppage in its 79th day, and a day after economic talks between the management and the Major League Baseball Players Association lasted 15 minutes.

Negotiators are set to resume talks on core economics on Monday, and MLB said members of the owners' negotiating committee will attend the session, just the seventh on the central issues of the dispute since the lockout began Dec. 2.

Spring training was to

have started this week, and the exhibition schedule had been set to begin on Feb. 26. There were 16 games set for that day, including the World Series champion Atlanta Braves playing Boston in Florida and the Cleveland Guardians taking on Cincinnati in Arizona.

"We regret that, without a collective bargaining agreement in place, we must postpone the start of spring training games until no earlier than Saturday, March 5," MLB said in a statement. "All 30 clubs are unified to bring players back to the field."

MLB told the union it thinks Feb. 28 is the last possible date to reach an agreement that would allow a timely start to the season.

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**
AP College Football Writer

What started last summer with the enthusiastic unveiling of a plan for a 12-team College Football Playoff has come to a halt with the cold, hard reality that expansion will not happen until at least 2026 — if at all.

The CFP is set to remain a four-team format through the 2025 season after the administrators who manage the postseason failed to agree on a plan to expand before the current contracts run out.

"I'm disappointed we couldn't get something in place," American Athletic Conference Commissioner Mike Aresco told The Associated Press on Friday. "Time was running out. The disappointment also stems from the fact that I think we will eventually get there and I think 12-team is still the most likely scenario."

The CFP management committee, comprised of 10 conference commissioners and Notre Dame's athletic director, met by video conference earlier this week.

Aresco, who released a letter Monday detailing the obstacles to expansion, said the purpose of the call was to determine if anyone's position had changed.

"Positions hadn't changed. So at that point, I guess the implications were clear," he said.

Unable to break an impasse, the commissioners decided to abandon efforts to implement a 12-team format for the 2024 season and recommended staying with the current model to the presidents who oversee the playoff.

The Board of Managers accepted the recommendation Thursday and directed the commissioners to continue discussions on a new format

to go into effect for the 2026 season.

"I don't think it becomes any easier," Southeastern Conference Commissioner Greg Sankey said. "In fact, I think it becomes more complicated."

As Aresco said: "After 2025 there is no playoff."

The decision to shelve early expansion comes as no surprise. The commissioners left their last in-person meetings in early January gridlocked and unable to produce the unanimous consensus needed to move forward with a 12-team proposal they had been haggling over since June.

The presidents did not fully close the door on early expansion after that meeting, but hope for an agreement was clearly fading.

A few days after the meetings in Indianapolis, Atlantic Coast Conference Commissioner Jim Phillips took the

strongest public stance yet against early expansion, saying a new CFP format should not be a priority with so much uncertainty throughout college sports.

On Friday, the commissioners finally signaled they have given up on trying to implement expansion for the final two years of the CFP's 12-year deal with ESPN — a failure that will cost the conferences an estimated \$450 million in additional revenue.

Now they will focus their attention on building a new model for beyond the 2026 season when there are no agreements in place.

The road to expansion appeared to be much smoother eight months ago, when the CFP publicly unveiled the 12-team plan. Even with details still be worked out, there was hope agreement could be reached by the fall and a new format could be in place by the 2024 season.

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Non-believer credits work, not ‘blessings,’ for success

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have had some crazy life swings since the beginning of the pandemic, mostly positive. I found a wonderful, well-paying job that I enjoy. In our 16th year of marriage, we have also brought a healthy, happy daughter into our lives. We recently bought a lovely home, and have added another, nicer, used car to our assets. In addition, my job allows my husband to live his dream of being a stay-at-home dad with our daughter.

Dear Abby



I come from a very religious family, although I am no longer religious. We don't attend church services with the family, and it seems they have adopted the philosophy of mostly "don't ask and we won't tell." My dilemma is: How should I respond to their constant comments that we are "so blessed" to be where we are?

I have worked extremely long, hard hours to get to this point in my career. I put myself through school with no support from my family and worked my butt off to get us to where we are. Yes, I'm thankful for the people I've worked with who have helped me to grow and reach this point. However, it feels wrong for me to equate my success to being blessed from God.

That statement comes up numerous times during family get-togethers. Normally, I ignore it or say we feel very lucky to have what we do. Should I continue saying that or ignore them altogether? Is there a tactful response I'm not seeing in this kind of awkward situation? — Deserving In Michigan

DEAR DESERVING: In the interest of family harmony, smile, nod and agree with the person making the comment. Of course you have worked hard and are deserving of your success. But to announce it in this instance and with those deeply religious people would be brag-gadocious and is uncalled for. This is not a personal putdown, so continue to resist the urge.

DEAR ABBY: I have been happily married for 32 years. My wife is going to a girls' thing this coming Saturday and asked me what I will be doing. I said I'm going to a funeral for a girl I knew in high school. (We were never boyfriend/girlfriend, just friends.)

My wife asked me how I heard about it, and I shared that one of my friends mentioned it during our Monday night football chat. She said, "You haven't talked to her in more than 40 years. You really didn't know her anymore, but you're going to her funeral?" I said yes. Then she said it is "eerie, strange and weird" and it seems inappropriate. I reminded her that people print obituaries to let people know.

I asked the guy who told me what he thought about me going. He said it sounded fine to him, but I shouldn't go stag. I said, "Doesn't 'stag' mean single and looking? I'm an old married man." I'm perplexed about both of these conversations. Am I missing something? Am I a weirdo if I go? Can I go alone? — Paying Respects In California

DEAR PAYING RESPECTS: The answers to your questions are no and yes. If you feel the need to pay last respects to a friend from high school, there's nothing "weird" about doing so. Your football friend may have substituted the word "stag" for the word "solo," which means "alone." (I see no reason why you shouldn't attend the funeral alone if the spirit moves you.)

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

38 "The Mammoth Hunters" heroine

39 Quick lunch

40 More expensive

42 Road show

13 Merry sound (hyph.)

14 Prepare food

15 Sheep sound

16 Helper (abbr.)

17 Skunk's defense

18 Stick on

20 California motto

22 Gray-barked tree

23 Hosp. personnel

24 Come to pass

28 — kwon do

31 Golfer's warning

34 Face the target

35 Cut, as coupons

36 Leaves breathless

37 201, to Claudius

DOWN

1 Food on a skewer

2 Speak publicly

3 Striped stone

4 Cugat's forte (hyph.)

5 Diner fare

6 Codgers' queries

7 Destiny

8 Squirrel snack

9 Shyly

10 Library volume

11 Pods for stews

19 Longs for

21 Footed vase

25 Walking step

26 Elite

27 Kuwaiti leader

29 Have a cough

30 Eco-friendly feds

31 "When We Was —"

32 Mouse catcher

33 Came back

35 Channing of Broadway

40 Popular pet

41 Join the army

43 Smart-mouthed

45 FYI notes

46 Operative

47 No brain surgeon

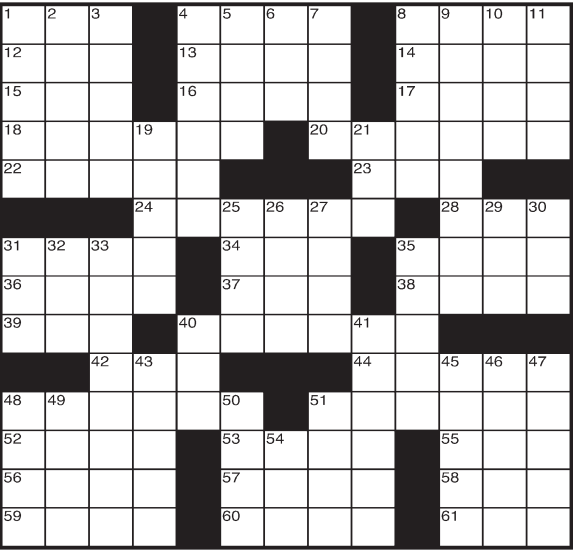
48 Perseverance

49 BMW rival

50 Iowa, to Jacques

51 Busy insects

54 Galena



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

	5	1		2					
9	8			4			1		
						2		5	
4				6	2				
	3			4			5		
			3	9				4	
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	2		7			4	8		
				5		7	2		

2/19

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

2	8	5	3	9	6	1	4	7
3	6	1	5	7	4	8	9	2
7	4	9	8	2	1	5	3	6
6	1	3	4	8	7	9	2	5
5	7	4	2	3	9	6	1	8
8	9	2	1	6	5	4	7	3
4	5	6	7	1	2	3	8	9
9	2	8	6	4	3	7	5	1
1	3	7	9	5	8	2	6	4

How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ZIMEA

AAPDN

ORANWR

PGROEH

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Print answer here:

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FABLE BLURT PEANUT PALACE

Answer: The bird that didn't fly away in the face of danger was — UNFLAPPABLE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

2-19

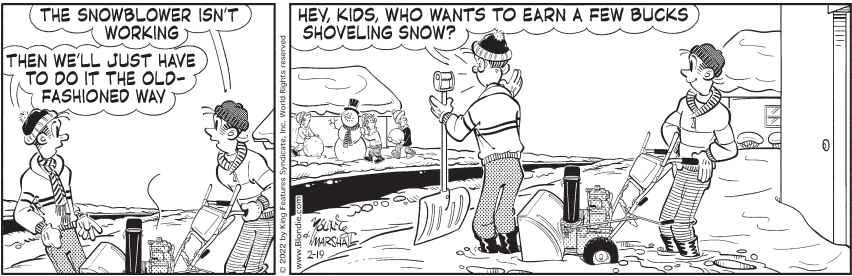
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"Shhh! The newslady must've told Daddy his favorite bedtime story again."

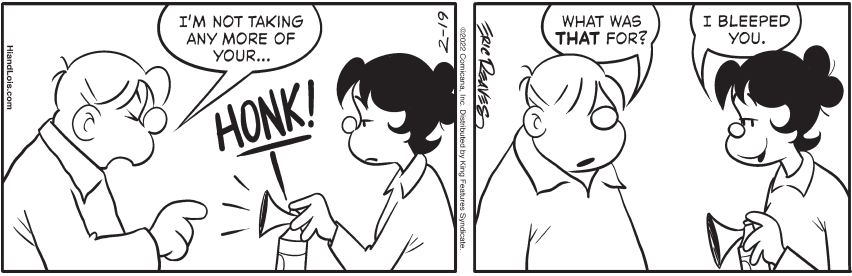
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



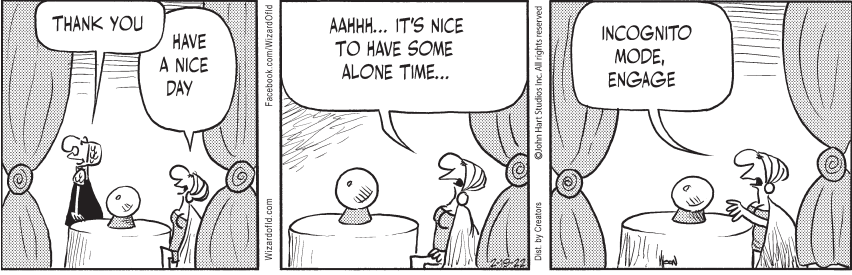
HI & LOIS



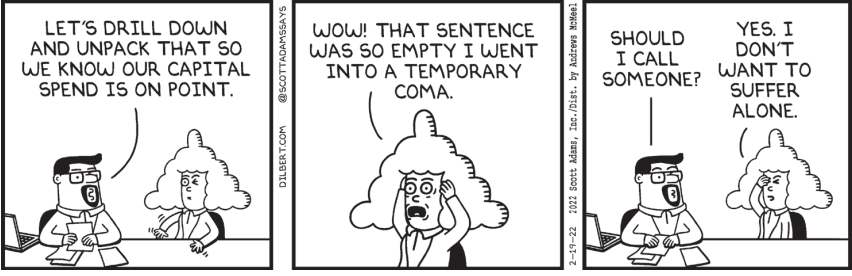
BC



WIZARD OF ID



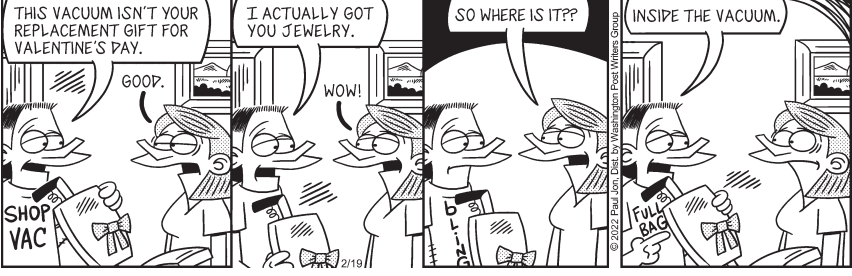
DILBERT



GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



God v. Satan, there's no middle ground

Q: If God owns everything in Heaven and on Earth, why does the Bible declare Satan as the prince of this world? — G. S.

A: Three times Christ designated Satan as the prince of this world. The Bible is clear that either the world's inhabitants are under the influence of this world with its cunning, deception, and spell; or they are in Christ and under the direction of the Spirit of God. There is no neutral ground. The lines are drawn by the Bible.

The Bible teaches that worldliness is a force, a spirit, an atmosphere of the cosmos that is in opposition and in contradiction to all that is godly and Christian. Its goal is selfish pleasure, material success, and the pride of life. It is ambitious and self-centered. God is not necessarily

denied; He is just ignored and forgotten.

Paul wrote to the Ephesians reminding them that in times past they had walked according to the course of the world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that works in the children of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2-3). Now the words "course of this world" carry the meaning of current or flow. There is an undertow, a subtle current, which runs against and in contradiction to the will and the way of God. Satan employs every device at his command to harass, tempt, thwart,

and hurt the people of God.

Paul reminds us, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age" (Ephesians 6:12). The Christian is not left defenseless in this conflict. God provides the power to give us victory over Satan. Paul said, "We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:37). This is why Jesus proclaimed: "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"W E I C G R T ' D M S Z T P O Z H W T P G O

DSWTP, KOMZCHO ITO MSZTPO

ZGDOAH OBOAN JIJOTD DSZD LIGGIEH

WD." — HWRTON VIWDWOA

Previous Solution: "Some people get rich studying artificial intelligence. Me, I make money studying natural stupidity." — Carl Icahn

TODAY'S CLUE: a s i e n t e s

NORTHFIELD VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL BEATEN BY NORTH MIAMI 59-44 IN SECTIONAL



Photos by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer
Fast-breaking senior guard Addy Rosen heads up-court in late game action during the sectional hosted by Northfield High School on Saturday, Feb. 5. The Norse would fall short in their bid for a fourth straight sectional title, losing to North Miami 59-44.



Northfield senior guard Ainsley Dale brings the ball up-court during first half action between the Norse and North Miami.



Standout Emily Pennington puts up strong defense against an invasive Warrior attack.



The Norse Cheer block stirs up the crowd before the start of the game.



Norse center Emily Pennington, right, controls the opening tip off.

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the Crisis

Opioid Addiction in the U.S.



March 2022

Manchester men’s basketball edged in two OT at Bluffton

The Spartans connected on nine 3-point field goals

By DILLON BENDER

The host Bluffton University Beavers were able to rally for an 89-84 double-overtime victory over the Manchester University men’s basketball team on Tuesday in the Spartans’ regular-season road finale. After leading 41-35 at the half, Bluffton was able to outscore Manchester 32-26 in the second half to force overtime. Both teams slugged it out in the first overtime period as both squads combined for just 12 points. The host Beavers were able to outlast Manchester on Tuesday evening by outscoring the Spartans 16-11 in the second overtime. Bluffton made 8-of-10 free-throw attempts in the second overtime period. For the game, Manchester shot 34-70 (48.6 percent) from the field. The Spartans connected on nine three-point field goals on Tuesday evening. Bluffton shot 30-79 (30.8 percent) from the floor and was limited to just 8-24 shooting from beyond the three-point arc. Bluffton did

make good use of the free-throw line, converting 23-of-31 attempts for 74.2 percent. Quentez Columbus, from South Bend and Adams High School, led Manchester with his first career double-double of 25 points and 10 rebounds. Logan Willoughby, from Greenwood and Whiteland Community High School, added 20 points and eight rebounds, while Ty Lynas, from Crawfordsville, scored 19 points. Brandon Christlieb, from Ashley and Prairie Heights High School, also scored in double figures with 11 points. Bluffton was led by a pair of double-doubles by Jameel Crosby (27 points, 13 rebounds), and Marcus Bruns (11 points, 10 rebounds). Keegan Owen (23 points) and Chad Frey (14 points) combined to shot 15-28 off the bench for Bluffton. Manchester (8-15, 7-9 HCAC) hosted rival Anderson University on Friday evening in its regular-season finale. Bluffton (6-16, 2-12 HCAC) snapped a nine-game skid on Tuesday evening. The Beavers concluded the 2021-22 season on Friday evening with a home game against rival Defiance College. *Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

MLB cancels spring training games through March 4

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball on Friday canceled the first week of spring training games through March 4 in the first public acknowledgment of the disruption caused by the lockout. The announcement came with the work stoppage

in its 79th day, and a day after economic talks between the management and the Major League Baseball Players Association lasted 15 minutes. Negotiators are set to resume talks on core economics on Monday, and MLB said members of the owners’ negotiating committee will attend the session, just the seventh on the central issues of the dispute since the lockout began Dec. 2.

Manchester women’s basketball topped by Bluffton in regular-season home finale

Spartans were limited to just 27.1 percent (16-59) shooting against Beavers

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University women’s basketball team was defeated by visiting Bluffton University 69-45 in the team’s regular-season home finale on Tuesday evening. Bluffton did most of its damage in the paint, scoring 36 of it 69 points in the paint. The Beavers shot 47.2 percent (25-53) in Tuesday’s game, while also holding a 47-32 advantage on the glass. Bluffton also blocked eight shots against the Black and Gold. Manchester was limited to just 27.1 percent (16-59) shooting against the



Manchester women's basketball lost to visiting Bluffton University 69-45 on Tuesday.

Beavers. Senior Miranda Bieghler, Plainfield and South Putnam High School, led Manchester with 16 points. Bieghler shot 7-12 from the field and was 1-2 from three-point territory. Alyssa Pfeil, from Goshen, added seven rebounds. Bluffton was led by Morgan Smith’s double-double of 22 points and 11 rebounds. The Spartans (7-13, 4-10 HCAC) traveled to rival Anderson University on Friday, Feb. 18 for their regular-season finale. Bluffton is now 17-6 (12-4 HCAC).

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